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Office of the City Administrator

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

6:00 PM

Lower Conference Room

Minutes

1) Call to Order, Roll Call

Present:

Chair Mark Gierl

Alderman Glenn Bushee

Alderman Kathleen Schneider

Also Present: Mayor Wirth, City Attorney Sajdak, Building Inspections Supervisor Hadley, Assistant Director of Community Development Zader, Assistant City Administrator Schoenemann, City Clerk Fochs, Fire Chief Bialk, Deputy Fire Chief Zellmann, Executive Assistant Enea, Amber Schroeder, and other interested parties.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. October Minutes

3) Ordinances

Action requested: review and recommend approval

a. **ORDINANCE 2021-1610** An Ordinance Amending Section 2-19 of the Mequon Municipal Code, Providing for Electronic Meeting Attendance by Members of the Common Council

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Alderman Bushee

SECONDED BY: Alderman Schneider

AYES: Gierl, Bushee, Schneider

b. **ORDINANCE 2021-1611** A Charter Ordinance Amending Provisions of the Mequon Municipal Code that Establishes the Planning Commission, to Allow for Electronic Meeting Attendance

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Alderman Schneider

SECONDED BY: Alderman Bushee

AYES: Gierl, Bushee, Schneider

4) Discussion Items

a. Pool Fence and Cover Requirements

Building Inspections Supervisor Hadley began the conversation by saying that it has been brought to their attention by a homeowner who wants to eliminate the fencing requirement around pools, deeming that pool covers are enough. City staff do not support eliminating the fencing requirement due to safety concerns. The homeowner, Amber Schroeder, was present and thinks the ordinance is archaic because pool covers are now more technologically advanced than they once were. She claimed they are safer because it can only be opened with a code and are strong enough for an elephant to walk over. She looked up other municipalities and found that River Hills, Sturgeon Bay, Wales, Stevens Point, Howard, Grafton, Green Bay, Kohler, and the Town of Cedarburg do not require fencing. Wausau is reviewing their code and do allow variances. A lot of other municipalities said they hadn't reviewed their policy in a long time. A discussion then ensued regarding enforcement. City Attorney Sajdak stated that another one of his communities looked into changing their pool fencing ordinance in lieu of pool covers and will bring those specifics to the next meeting.

b. Fire Pits Discussion

Resident Schroeder began the discussion by explaining how she is the President of her neighborhood's HOA. Residents are required to submit patio plans to be approved by the HOA and many include built-in fire pits. The current ordinance requires fire pits to be 75 feet away from homes. Commercial devices, patio hearths, and barbeque grills are exempt. The committee agreed that the current ordinance is vague and could be clarified. They will look at it at the January meeting.

RESULT: Tabled [Unanimous]

MOVED BY: Alderman Schneider

SECONDED BY: Alderman Bushee

AYES: Gierl, Bushee, Schneider

c. Architectural Review Board Procedures

Building Inspections Supervisor Hadley shared a chart of neighboring municipalities and how many members are on their architectural board, if they even have one. Mequon has 23 members and they have to find 10-12 new members each year. The committee discussed reducing the size to 5-7 and not needing district representation. Also, are there certain things that don't even need to go to the board? Will discuss again at January's meeting.

5) Resolutions

Action requested: review and recommend approval

- a. **RESOLUTION 3898** A Resolution Designating Polling Sites in the City of Mequon
Based on the Approved 2022 Aldermanic Districts

RESULT: Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]

MOVED BY: Alderman Schneider

SECONDED BY: Alderman Gierl

AYES: Gierl, Schneider
NOT PRESENT: Bushee

6) Information Items

a. Work Calendar

All discussion items from this meeting will be on January's agenda.

7) Next Meeting Date and Time

a. January 11, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

8) Adjourn

Alderman Schneider moved to adjourn at 7:10 P.M. Alderman Gierl seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Enea